Dear Mr. Frewin, 8/27/80

Your letter of the 18th was addressed correctly and reached me promptly. I've not been able to respond sooner.

It is possible that Eddowes quotes correctly but from what I know of his work I'd not even assume that. I probably have the record you refer to but have no way of retrieving if from that file, from which I've not had time to make copies for subject filing. My hunch is that his source was Mrs. Mary Ferrell, 4406 Holland, Dallas, Texas 75219. Mary is a conspiracy-minded, bright person of the right extreme. She also was probably the major source for Tony Summers, of whose work I have nothing good to say. (I do not have Eddowes nonsense so I can't use it for a search.)

I have a pretty clear recollection of the Profumo affair.

The nuts have been wild with theories about Osborne/Bowen but none of them make any sense at all.

Whatever the telegram reports, it makes no sense at all to believe that the news of the JFK assassination would have been available at the USEmb faster than by wire service, which certainly the Cambridge paper had, or faster than it would have been on the air. You do not suggest that there was any suggestion that the embassy would have been able to tell the reporter what was not already available to him.

The probable source of the telegram is CIA disclosure under FOIA, including to me. Of course also others. Getting more from the CIA does not appear to be likely. It has been stalling further disclosures for about four years. However, the possibilities might be better at State. Again, I think Mary is probably the best source on its source and whether or not other pertinent records are available.

While I have no way of evaluating the Mariella Dibben/Caoes story, I have difficulty crediting the part that allegedly pertained to JFK. It is probable that some of the JFK biographies, certainly the New York Timesindex, would disclose his whereabouts at Xmas 1960. My recollection is that he then was quite busy in Washington preparing his coming administration, selecting and announcing personnel, etc. It was a severe winter and the TV crews were camped outside his N St., Washington (Georgetown) home, awaiting these daily announcements and observing comings and goings. Regardless of the 1963 reopening of charges in New York and the alleged security aspects, I doubt she had any JFK connection and suspect this is hype.

I think there is no possibility of any connection between these matters and the assassination. I don't know of anyone who has made a study of JFK's affaires. I once sought out one of these woman, and she was a fine and honest woman. He cut off from her as soon as he was nominated. Once he was President his potential for secrecy was severely limited and there was never any possibility of secrecy from the Secret Service outside the White House. I'm not saying that there are no such secrets or that he did not work something out with some Secret Service people, but if he did they have been solidly dependable because none went public.

If you have a good New York source you can get the prosecution and the charges checked out. I now have nobody there I could ask to do this.

This is not the first instance of someone claiming that what he or she was involved in was connected with the JFK assassination, but I don't recall any that was truthful. My hunch is that this one is not factual.

I don't mind the questions. For archival purposes I'd be interested in anything you may turn up. All my records will be a free university archive.

Please forgive the typing. I have circulatory problems in the legs. They require that I keep the legs elevated when typing. It is a bit awkward.

Best wishes,

Harold Weisberg